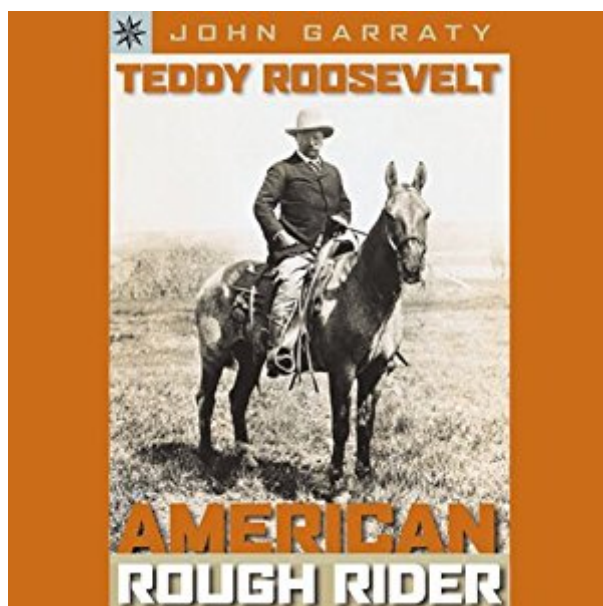


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# Teddy Roosevelt: American Rough Rider



## Synopsis

Before Teddy Roosevelt earned his reputation as a strong, masculine hunter, explorer, and Rough Rider, he actually endured a sickly childhood. That's just one aspect of his life covered in this biography, which follows his transformation into a disciplined athlete and one of the world's best-known public servants and politicians. Renowned author John Garraty uses quotes from Roosevelt throughout, giving readers direct contact with the man's colorful personality. In addition, Garraty masterfully eliminates confusing details, while emphasizing the significance of Roosevelt's actions as he deals with opposing faction. He emerges as the first modern President and a great statesman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Teddy Roosevelt, Rough Rider is interesting because it is a biography and history of Teddy Roosevelt as a child. He liked natural history and even stuffed the animals he caught himself - yuck! When he grew up and was president, he was involved in saving park and forest land and wildlife. Yellowstone Park was one of the parks he helped with. He had asthma but he wanted to build up his body to be strong, so he did a lot of sports like boxing and horseback riding. He liked to read and write books. A funny part of the story involved frogs, but you'll have to read it yourself to find out!

If you want to read a totally fabricated book about Theodore Roosevelt, then this is it! He attended Harvard when he was 17, after being solely homeschooled by his sisters and an occasional private tutor. He was one of the most intelligent men of our time, but there was an excerpt that states that

he realized what a disservice learning at home was, and realized school was so much better. A ridiculously biased, and untrue statement. When did writing a book with facts become so difficult? He had an amazing life and does not need a bunch of fluff to make it interesting. I will be clearing out any Alladin biographies I have in my library.

This was a terrific read that had my three children (3, 5, and 7) totally engaged. My only complaint is that the last chapter jumped awkwardly to a scene after Teddy's death and proceeded to briefly recount much of his adulthood accomplishments. It felt as if the author had written a terrific piece and then published it before writing the second half.

We used this book last summer for my 8 and 10 year olds. The first 13 chapters were very good, interesting and show that Teddy Roosevelt was an upstanding, fair, motivated and hardworking young man. The book tells of Teddy was interested in natural history from a young age, his determination to ride a bucking pony, his resolve to not let bigger boys push him around, and his supportive family, especially his father. Each chapter covers a certain event and time of his youth, therefore, can be read independently. Interesting but somewhat disturbing that young Teddy would use the word "bully" when he was excited and happy. Looked up in the internet, supposedly means, informal speech, "fine, excellent, very good" and Teddy Roosevelt did like to use that word when he was pleased. Keep in mind that slangs and informal speech are confusing to kids when adults are not around to do some explaining. It is the last chapter that we didn't enjoy. While the first 13 chapters tells Teddy's life as stories, the last chapter was written as the story of a boy scout group putting on a skit of Teddy's life. My boys were frustrated with this chapter because the bantering of the boy scouts were mixed with the skit lines. It would have been better if the last chapter was made into a summary of what Teddy Roosevelt had done after his bull moose hunt - that he went to Harvard, was Governor of New York, established national parks, building Panama Canal, was vice president, took over as president, etc - and what his motto was. I would recommend the first 13 chapters of this book and let your young people do their own research after that. Hence 3 stars.

I read this to my kids (7 and 10 years) because they need more practice with nonfiction comprehension and we learned about President Roosevelt this year. This book is great because it tells about a historical figure as a youngster, with adventures, problems, and lots of dialogue. Each chapter has a short adventure or episode in Teddy Roosevelt's childhood, up til teenage years; and through his words and actions we could see various positive character traits in a way that the kids

could relate to. For example, when we discover that he was fair, it is shown in a boxing match when he does not hold it against his opponent who throws a last punch because he did not hear the end-of-round bell. And Teddy calls out to the judges and spectators not to penalize the other boxer for it. We also find out about his ability to plan and strategize when he leads his team of neighborhood boys in a game of invasion. At the end of each chapter I would ask my kids, "what did this chapter show about Teddy Roosevelt?" And to whatever answer they gave, my next question was "And how do you know that? How was that demonstrated?" Their school curriculum constantly asked those kind of questions so I just applied it to the book. The last chapter was the best. A Boy Scout group or something like it, was putting on a play several years after President Roosevelt's death, about his life. To do so, each member of the troupe chose an episode in Teddy's life to portray, with props, sound effects, and costumes. Some of these were episodes described in the book, some were beyond that timeline. So that last chapter was a story of a story of a story, showing what values and details a young person might recall about this great man. It was also a creative, really neat way to wrap up the book. Great book about character. Looking for another one in the series.

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